(b) if so, how long these proposals are pending with the Central Government;

(c) what are the reasons for delay in clearing these proposals ;

(d) whether the Central Government have examined these proposals ; and

(e) if so, by when a decision would be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) (a) Since inception of the forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, 459 proposals seeking prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land have been received from Gujarat State Government upto 31st October, 1993.

(b) As on 31-1-94, out of above, 8 proposals were pending with the Central Government for decision under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Out of these, 2 proposals were pending for more than 6 months.

(c) to (e) After the receipt of proposals from the State Government, the proposal are examined in accordance with the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and if it is found complete in all respect, expeditous action is taken to take final decision for the proposal. However, after examination of proposal, if certain essential details are found lacking, the concerned State Government is requested to furnish these details. After receipt of lacking details expeditious action is taken to finally decide the proposal.

Population of Lions

1000. SHRI RAJUBAHI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the population of lions as during 1980 to 1990 and 1990 to 31st December, 1993;

(b) the sanctuary-wise and State-wise lion population as on the 31st January, 1994; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to protect and preserve the endangered species ?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) Census of Lions, which are found only in Gir Forests of Gujarat is carried out periodically. The population as reported by the Gujarat Government during different census is as follows :

Year	Population
1979	205
1985	239
1990	284

(c) The steps taken to protect and preserve this endagnered species include :

i. Strict enforcement of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 in Gir.

ii. Vigilant patrolling of the Gir Sanctuary is done by Forest Staff equipped with vehicles, arms and wireless communication facilities.

iii. Provision of rubble wall fencing around the sanctuary has been made to exclude cattle.

iv. Captive breeding of lions is undertaken in various zoos and several lion safaries have been established.

v. Trade in parts and products of this species is totally banned by law

vi. The Species is placed in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act and Appendix-I of CITES, thereby giving the species maximum legal protection and also putting maximum restraint on its international trade.

vii. Central Assistance is extended to the Govt. of Gujarat for protection and development of the habitate of this threatened species.

Protection of Lions

1001. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any schemes have been launched for protection of Gir lions and other breeds of lions found in different states;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the steps taken there under during 1991-92 and 1993, indicating the success achieved as a result thereof ; and

(c) what are the details of the proposals, if any received for protection of Gir and other breeds of lions during 1993 on wards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) India has only one wild population of lions which are found in the Gir Forests of Gujarat. The Central Government regularly gives assistance to State Govts. for the protection and development of the animal and its habitat under the Scheme of 'Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries'. The amount released under the Scheme during last three years is as follows :

Year	Amount
1990-91 . . .	48.40 lakhs
1991-92 . . .	42.05 lakhs
1992-93 . . .	26.44 lakhs

The success of the efforts can be assessed from the fact that the lion population increased from 180 in 1974 to 205 in 1979, 239 in 1985 and 284 in 1990.

(c) The proposal for Central Assistance for developmental works was received during 1993-94 from the Govt. of Gujarat and an amount of Rs. 29.71 lakhs has been released for the purpose.

A scientific evaluation is going on for finding a second home for Asiatic lion in the North Western part of Madhya Pradesh and Southern part of Rajasthan for long term survival of the species and as insurance against any exigencies.

Disposal of Letters Received From M.Ps

1002. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *ALIAS* MEEM AFZAL : Will the MINISTER of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of letters written by the Members of Parliament to his Ministry during the period from 1st April. 1990 to 31st March, 1993 alongwith year-wise details thereof ;

(b) what is the number of letters out of them that were acknowledged ;

(c) what is the number of letters in respect of which final replies were sent; and

(d) what is the break up of final letters issued by the Ministry containing positive and negative replies respectively ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (d) A total number of 1209 letters were received from members of Parliament during the period from 1st April, 1990 to 31st March 1993. The year wise break up of these letters is as follows :—

	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	Total
No. of letters received . .	322	486	401	1029

Of these, in respect of 1175 letters final replies have been sent. While positive replies could be furnished in 1044 cases, the number of replies which could be described as negative replies is 131.

वन भूमि का इस्तेमाल

1003. श्री विट्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव : क्या **पर्यावरण और वन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरदार सरोवर परियोजना क्षेत्र से विस्थापित लोगों के पुनर्वास के लिए वन भूमि के इस्तेमाल की अनुमति मांगी जा रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) सरकार ने इस मामले में क्या निर्णय लिया है ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) और (ग) सरदार सरोवर परियोजना के विस्थापितों को पुन: बसाने के लिए धुले जिले में